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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZAHID (Morocco)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 115: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (A/47/620, A/47/740 and A/47/782)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 115 the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (A/47/620) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (A/47/740). The Advisory Committee's report was contained in document A/47/782.

2. He suggested that the Committee should hold informal consultations on agenda item 115 as soon as possible.

3. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 118: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP (A/46/725 and A/46/750; A/47/555 and Corr.1 and A/47/756)

4. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 118 the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/46/725 and A/47/555 and Corr.1); the report of the Board of Auditors (A/46/750) and the Advisory Committee's report (A/47/756).

5. Ms. SJÖLANDER (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Norway and Sweden, noted that, with regard to document A/47/555, section V, paragraph 12 (a), at the time of the repatriation of Namibian refugees in 1989, UNHCR had faced a shortfall of $3,351,395 for the operation and, at the same time, the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) operation, which was coming to a close, showed a considerable surplus. In order to have the repatriation operation completed without undue delay, Sweden and Norway had agreed to reallocate the missing amount from their unearmarked contributions to the UNHCR general programme on a loan basis to the Namibian repatriation programme, pending subsequent recuperation of the same amount from the UNTAG surplus. In their view, an operation like the Namibian repatriation programme could very well be seen as an integral part of the whole peace-keeping operation, and should therefore be financed by assessed contributions.

6. Norway and Sweden could support the Secretary-General's suggestion that $3,351,395 should be transferred from the UNTAG special account to UNHCR to cover the shortfall, since it was wholly in line with the loan agreement made in 1989. They attached high priority to setting up a reserve fund for peace-keeping operations and supported the idea of using the balances from the UNTAG and United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) operations as a base for such a fund. If the amount in question could form part of such a reserve fund, they could agree to such an arrangement. They supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that any additional amount

(Ms. Sjölander, Sweden)

that would remain in the account after liquidation of obligations owed to Member States should be retained until a decision was taken by the General Assembly regarding the proposed peace-keeping reserve fund (A/47/756, para. 8).

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should hold informal consultations on agenda item 115 as soon as possible.

8. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 117: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (A/47/744)

9. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 117 the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/744). The Committee would not have time to consider that report and the Advisory Committee's report on the item. He therefore proposed that, in order to provide for the continued maintenance of the Mission until the matter could be discussed at the resumed forty-seventh session, a commitment authorization in an amount of $25,258,800 gross ($24,218,000 net) for the period through 28 February 1993 should be provided for the purpose and that that amount should be assessed on Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in General Assembly resolution 47/41, of 1 December 1992. That commitment authorization would be considered as part of the appropriation to be decided upon at the resumed session of the General Assembly.

10. He took it that the Committee agreed to that proposal.

11. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 121: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (A/46/783; A/47/743)

12. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 121 the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/46/783 and A/47/743). The Committee would not have time to consider those reports and the Advisory Committee's report on the item. He therefore proposed that, in order to provide for the continued maintenance of the Mission until the matter could be discussed at the resumed forty-seventh session in 1993, a commitment authorization of US $7,138,500 gross ($6,834,300 net) for the period through 28 February 1993 should be provided for the purpose from the unencumbered balance of the appropriation provided for MINURSO.

13. He took it that the Committee agreed to that proposal.

14. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 122: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (A/47/751)

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would not have time to consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/751) and the Advisory Committee's report on the item.

16. In order to provide for the continued maintenance of the Observer Mission until the matter could be discussed at the resumed forty-seventh session in 1993, he proposed that a commitment authorization in an amount of US $8,045,600 gross ($7,514,200 net) for the period through 28 February 1993 should be provided for the purpose, and that that amount should be assessed on Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in General Assembly resolution 47/41 of 1 December 1992. That commitment authorization would be considered as part of the appropriation to be decided upon at the resumed session of the General Assembly.

17. He took it that the Committee agreed to that proposal.

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that no action was required on the question of the United Nations Observer Mission in Central America (ONUCA) until the resumed forty-seventh session, when the question would be considered together with the question of ONUSAL.

20. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) asked how the three decisions just taken by the Committee would be conveyed to the General Assembly.

21. The CHAIRMAN said his understanding was that the Rapporteur would have to report on all the items and on the decisions adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 123: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (A/47/733 and A/47/763)

22. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 123 the Committee had before it the report in document A/47/733 and the Advisory Committee's report (A/47/763).

23. He suggested that the Committee should hold informal consultations on item 123 as soon as possible.

24. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 137: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (A/47/741 and A/47/778)

25. The CHAIRMAN said that for its consideration of agenda item 137 the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/741) and the Advisory Committee's report (A/47/778).

26. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that his delegation had fundamental concerns about the financing of UNPROFOR expansion into Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would have to review the recommendations made in the relevant documents, which had been received at a very late stage. His Government had always held the view that the expansion into Bosnia and Herzegovina should have been financed in the same way as in other peace-keeping budgets.

27. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that his delegation had only just received the Advisory Committee's report on the item; it would appear from the report that the Committee had chosen a sensible approach.

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should hold informal consultations on item 123 as soon as possible.

29. It was so decided.

30. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that in late November his delegation had asked for a document indicating the rates of inflation and the effects of currency fluctuations on appropriations for 1993; that information had not yet been received. Since Canada normally paid its contribution on 1 January, his delegation urgently needed that information.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.